

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 26, 2004

WARNING PERIOD TO END; STATIONARY PHOTO RADAR CAMERA ISSUES ACTUAL TICKETS BEGINNING MARCH 28

After 30 days of mailing warning notices only, the MPDC on Sunday, March 28, begins issuing actual tickets to motorists caught speeding aggressively by the stationary photo radar camera located in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE. Chief Ramsey announced the “fixed-site” speeding reduction camera—the first of its kind in North America—on February 26. During the first 25 days of operation, the photo radar unit detected 14,268 vehicles traveling above the speeding threshold for the program, or an average of 585 warnings a day. The highest recorded speed was 88 mph, at 1:22 am on February 27. The 30 days of warning notices are part of a Police Department effort to educate DC-area motorists about the dangers of speeding and the Department’s crackdown on this dangerous behavior using photo radar. Beginning March 28, aggressive speeders caught by the fixed-site camera will receive Notices of Infraction in the mail. While photo-enforced violations do not carry points in the District, the fines for speeding range up to \$200 per violation. Motorists are reminded that the speed limit is 25 mph on this part of Florida Avenue, NE. The photo radar camera will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://www.mpdcc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2629>
- ① The MPDC has deployed mobile photo radar cameras since the summer of 2001. Information on the entire photo radar speeding reduction program is at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtml>

MAYOR WILLIAMS SIGNS LEGISLATION ON EVIDENCE RETENTION

Mayor Anthony Williams, Councilmember Kathy Patterson and other city officials joined members of the family of Millicent Allewelt this week for the signing of Bill 15-34, the “Millicent Allewelt Act of 2004.” This legislation requires law enforcement agencies in the District to retain evidence and case files in open homicide investigations for 65 years from the date the crime was reported. The legislation is named for Millicent Allewelt, who was sexually assaulted and murdered in her apartment in Southwest DC on June 27, 1973. Due to the inconsistency in the storage of evidence, information related to Allewelt’s case could not be found for use in a possible reinvestigation using DNA evidence, a process not available in 1973. “This legislation is a collaborative effort on the part of the Administration and the Council to develop legislation that will enhance criminal investigations and thus improve our homicide closure rate,” said the Mayor. In addition to requiring the police to retain evidence and case files in open homicide investigations for 65 years, the law also mandates that evidence and case files in open investigations of assault with intent to kill, aggravated assault, assault on a police officer with a dangerous weapon, burglary, mayhem, malicious disfigurement, sexual abuse and sex offenses, and any crime of violence while armed be retained for the length of each crime’s statute of limitations.

- ① The news release and legislative summary are available at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2626>
- ① Each year, the MPDC’s Evidence Control Branch handles more than 100,000 cases in which property is recovered or seized. For information about this unit and procedures for how crime victims can get their property back, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/ecb.shtml>

LOCAL CRIME SOLVERS PROGRAMS UNITE TO FIGHT CRIME

Members of Crime Solvers programs from across the DC area this week introduced the new consolidated National Capital Area Crime Solvers, Inc. (NCACS), during a press conference held at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). The new organization serves as a regional umbrella for existing local Crime Solvers programs in DC and surrounding communities. The first order of business for NCACS will be to increase public awareness of Crime Solvers throughout the metropolitan region. Crime Solvers is a community-based program that works with law enforcement agencies and the news media to solve crimes by offering rewards for information that leads to an arrest or to the recovery of stolen property. Since the founding of the first Crime Solvers program in the DC area in 1978, regional Crime Solvers programs have awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in reward money for information leading to the arrest of thousands of criminals.

NEW CIVILIAN JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCED

The MPDC is seeking qualified applicants for a number of management, technical and operational support positions within its civilian ranks. One of the career opportunities currently available is the Director of Business Services, a Management Supervisory Service position that oversees the following MPDC units: Equipment and Supplies, Fleet Services, Juvenile and Adult Processing, Evidence/Custodial Property and Security Officers Management. The MPDC is also seeking candidates for a Supply Management Officer, a Human Resource Specialist and an Information Technology Specialist, with a focus on operating systems. In addition, the MPDC is recruiting for three biologists and two physical scientists to work on MPDC cases at the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, VA. Closing dates for all of these positions vary.

NEWS & NOTES

Chief Ramsey on WTOP's "Ask the Chief." Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls and emails from 10-11 am, on Thursday, April 1, during his regular monthly appearance on the "Ask the Chief" program on WTOP Radio.

February Court Reports. The latest "court reports" from the US Attorney's Community Prosecution Unit are now available. These reports show the outcomes of court cases of interest to the community in each of the seven police districts. View the February reports at <http://www.mpdcc.gov/info/comm/courttrpts/courttrpts.shtm>.

Council Hearings. The MPDC will be testifying at two DC Council Committee hearings: on March 29, at a hearing on school safety; and on March 30, at a hearing on the MPDC's proposed budget for fiscal year 2005. View the DC Council's calendar at <http://www.dccouncil.us/calendar.html>.

Cherry Blossom Festival. The Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade on April 3 will require some street closures in downtown DC. In addition, motorists are urged to use extra caution around the Tidal Basin and other downtown areas throughout the Cherry Blossom Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors. For information on street closures in DC, go to http://dc.gov/closures/closures_by_type.asp?type=4.

Drug Free Zones. The MPDC is enforcing DC's anti-loitering law this weekend in two designated drug free zones, located in PSA 404 and PSA 512. Additional drug free zones are planned in the coming weeks. Details at: <http://www.mpdcc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>.

- ① Read the news release at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2628>
- ① In addition to the regional toll-free Crime Solvers telephone number—I 800-673-2777—the NCACS has also launched a website at: www.cash4tips.org
- ① Besides participating in the regional Crime Solvers program, the MPDC also offers rewards of up to \$25,000 for information leading to arrests and convictions in any open homicide case in the District. To view some of DC's "Most Wanted" homicide suspects, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/mostwanted/homicide.shtm>
- ① For information about qualifications, salaries and application procedures, visit the civilian recruiting section of the MPDC website at: <http://www.mpdcc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>
- ① The MPDC continues to seek qualified applicants for sworn police officers as well. Details—plus an online application—are at: <http://www.mpdcc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 3/26/04)

- 2004: 44
- 2003: 53
- % Change: -17.0%
- Closure Rate: 56.8% (25 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 3/20/04)

- Total: 945
- Drugs: 155
- Weapons: 19
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 23
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 34

Firearm Recoveries (as of 3/23/04)

- March: 153
- 2004 Total: 4538

Traffic Fatalities (as of 3/26/04)

- 2004: 12
- 2003: 8
- % Change: +50.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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